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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,302	09/23/2003	Hideori Shindoh	243008US2	9279
22850 7590 12/26/2008 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER NGUYEN, ALLEN H				
ART UNIT 2625		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 12/26/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,302

Applicant(s)

SHINDOH ET AL.

Examiner

Allen H. Nguyen

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

- This office action is responsive to the following communication:
Amendment filed on 09/05/2008.
- Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 09/05/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. With respect to applicants' arguments that "Tanio does not describe any device configured to resize image data by increasing or decreasing the linear dimensions of the image as recited in amended Claims 1, 13".

In reply: Regarding claim 1, the combination of Alsop '561 and Tanio '389 does not explicitly show said image data converting unit further configured to resize the image data by increasing or decreasing the linear dimensions of the image.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Sakuragi '959. In particular, Sakuragi '959 teaches said image data converting unit (image information processing apparatus, fig. 1) further configured to resize the image data by increasing or decreasing (i.e., CPU 34 determines a size converting ratio (an enlarge/reduction ratio) R of the image information by enlarge/reduction circuit 46 in step S110; Col. 8, lines 5-10, figs. 1, 7B) the linear

dimensions of the image (i.e., the size conversion (expansion or reduction) rate setting data in the X, Y, directions; Col. 4, lines 60-65, figs. 4-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alsop et al. (US 2003/0077561) in view of Sakuragi (US 5,204,959).

Regarding claim 1, Alsop '561 discloses an apparatus (101, fig. 1) for forming an image (i.e., an input device that is configured to image any writing made on the drawing medium, surface or screen; Page 3, paragraph [0029]), in which hardware resources (102/103, fig. 1) for use in the forming of the image are provided, and a program runs in respect of the forming of the image (i.e., the user at whiteboard 101 manually, automatically and/or periodically initiates a software process that refreshes the display; Page 2, paragraph [0016]), said apparatus comprising:

an image data converting unit configured to convert a format of image data from a first format (i.e., the input device may include a format converter that is configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) to a second format (i.e., this second image is then converted by the system into an

electronic format, such as a JPEG, GIF, TIFF or other electronic text or image file format; Page 3, paragraph [0034]), said first format and said second format each being one of NFC 1, K4, K8, JPEG, RJ2K, a four-value format, a binary format, an eight-value format, and an MH/MR/MMR format (i.e., at least one of said formats including one of JPEG File Interchange Format, Tag Image File Format (TIFF), MPEG, CCITT H.261 encoded image data and the like; Page 3, paragraph [0029]);

a format unifying unit configured to unify (i.e., the first and second images are then combined by the system to form a composite image; Page 3, paragraph [0035]) a plurality of formats of image data by utilizing said image data converting unit (i.e., a third image onto the composite image to form a new composite image. This new composite image, which may include elements of the first, second and third images, is then captured, converted; Page 3, paragraph [0036]).

Also, '561 does not explicitly show said image data converting unit further configured to resize the image data by increasing or decreasing the linear dimensions of the image.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Sakuragi '959. In particular, Sakuragi '959 teaches said image data converting unit (image information processing apparatus, fig. 1) further configured to resize the image data by increasing or decreasing (i.e., CPU 34 determines a size converting ratio (an enlarge/reduction ratio) R of the image information by enlarge/reduction circuit 46 in step S110; Col. 8, lines 5-10, figs. 1, 7B) the linear

dimensions of the image (i.e., the size conversion (expansion or reduction) rate setting data in the X, Y, directions; Col. 4, lines 60-65, figs. 4-5).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Sakuragi, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Sakuragi to include: said image data converting unit further configured to resize the image data by increasing or decreasing the linear dimensions of the image, since Sakuragi stated in col. 1, lines 29-32 that such a modification would ensure the retrieved image is enlarged or reduced using an enlarging/reducing ratio in accordance with the size of the outputted image.

Regarding claim 3, Sakuragi '959 teaches the apparatus (image information processing apparatus, fig. 1), wherein said image data converting unit (46, fig. 1) compresses converts a format of image data by resizing an image of the image data (i.e., CPU 34 determines a size converting ratio (an enlarge/reduction ratio) R of the image information by enlarge/reduction circuit 46 in step S110; Col. 8, lines 5-10, figs. 1, 7B), compressing the image data (Col. 3, lines 5-20), decoding the image data (DECODER 427, fig. 3), and attending to multi-value conversion of the image data (see Abstract).

Regarding claim 5, Alsop '561 discloses the apparatus (101, fig. 1), wherein said format unifying unit (i.e., the input device may include a format converter that is

configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) unifies the plurality of formats of image data into one of the plurality of formats (i.e., a third image onto the composite image to form a new composite image. This new composite image, which may include elements of the first, second and third images, is then captured, converted; Page 3, paragraph [0036]).

Regarding claim 10, Alsop '561 discloses the apparatus, further comprising a consolidated printing unit (i.e., the input device may include a format converter that is configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) which consolidates (i.e., a third image onto the composite image to form a new composite image; Page 3, paragraph [0036]) and prints images whose formats are unified by said format unifying unit (i.e., the new composite image is displayed to said first plurality of conference participants on the viewable medium or surface; Page 4, paragraph [0036]).

Regarding claim 12, claim 12 is the method claim of device claim 1. Therefore, method claim 12 is rejected for the reason given in device claim 1.

Regarding claim 14, Sakuragi '959 discloses the apparatus (image information processing apparatus, fig. 1), wherein said image data converting unit (46, fig. 1) is configured to change image data of an A4 size to an A3 size (i.e., enlarge/reduction circuit 46 is provided with predetermined size conversion ratio data from CPU 34 and

enlarges or reduces the image information to a predetermined size so as to adapt the image information for CRT display 24 or printer 25; Col. 3, lines 10-15, col. 8, lines 30-65, and col. 9, lines 1-5, Table 1).

Regarding claim 15, Sakuragi '959 discloses the apparatus (image information processing apparatus, fig. 1), wherein said image data converting unit (46, fig. 1) is configured to change image data of an A4 size to an A5 size (i.e., enlarge/reduction circuit 46 is provided with predetermined size conversion ratio data from CPU 34 and enlarges or reduces the image information to a predetermined size so as to adapt the image information for CRT display 24 or printer 25; Col. 3, lines 10-15, col. 8, lines 30-65, and col. 9, lines 1-5, Table 1).

5. Claims 2, 4, 6-9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alsop et al. (US 2003/0077561) in view of Sakuragi (US 5,204,959), and further in view of Tanio (US 5,930,389).

Regarding claim 2, Alsop '561 discloses the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts formats of image data (i.e., the input device include a format converter that is configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) used by a printer (i.e., Whiteboard 101 may further include a peripheral printer for electronically generating printed material onto the surface; Page 1, paragraph [0014]), a scanner (Scanner 18, fig. 1 of Sakuragi '959).

The combination of Alsop '561 and Sakuragi '959 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts formats of image data used by a copier, and a facsimile.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts formats of image data used by a copier (103, fig. 1), and a facsimile (i.e., a copier 103 has the transmission/reception function. Therefore, a copier 103 is also having a facsimile; fig. 1, Transmission 103-2, Reception 103-1).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts formats of image data used by a copier, and a facsimile, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Alsop '561 and Sakuragi '959 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts the format of image data by hardware.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit (101, fig. 1) converts the format of image data by hardware (the color space converting process can be executed by a hardware circuit, col. 10, lines 48-49, fig. 2B).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and Sakuragi and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop and Sakuragi as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts the format of image data by hardware, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 6, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit includes a conversion executing unit which converts the image data by utilizing said image data converting unit according to a unified format.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig.1) includes a conversion executing unit which converts the image data by utilizing said image data converting unit according to a unified format

(image input/output tasks of different control types such as CLC type, FS type, and the like can be operated according to the connected device, col. 10, lines 11-13).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit includes a conversion executing unit which converts the image data by utilizing said image data converting unit according to a unified format, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 7, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) includes a plurality of conversion executing units (223, 224, fig. 2A), one of which is said conversion executing unit (303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 of 223, fig. 2A), and others of which are identical to said conversion executing unit (303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 of 224, fig. 2A).

Regarding claim 8, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) assigns the plurality of conversion executing units (the masking color processing circuit 305, fig. 2A) to respective images (the masking color processing

circuit 305 executes image editing processes such as masking, UCR operating process, and the like according to the color reproducing characteristics of the color copying apparatus 103, col. 6, lines 29-32), thereby converting image data of the images (in order to accurately reconstruct the image, col. 6, line 33).

Regarding claim 9, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein any given one (color conversion circuit 304, fig. 2A) of said conversion executing units converts image data of a corresponding one of the images (in case of layout-printing three images of different image types, col. 11, lines 56-57, fig. 17A) by utilizing said image data converting unit if a format of the image data of the corresponding one of the images is different from the unified format (fig. 17B).

Regarding claim 11, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit notifies said consolidated printed unit that image data is ready for consolidated printing if said format unifying unit completes unification of the formats of image data after conversion of at least one of the formats or because of no need for conversion of at least one of the formats.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) notifies said consolidated printed unit (CLC103/104, fig. 1) that image data is ready for consolidated printing if said format unifying unit completes unification of the formats of image data after conversion of at least one of the

formats or because of no need for conversion of at least one of the formats (in step S50, col. 11, line 20).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit notifies said consolidated printed unit that image data is ready for consolidated printing if said format unifying unit completes unification of the formats of image data after conversion of at least one of the formats or because of no need for conversion of at least one of the formats, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alsop et al. (US 2003/0077561) in view of Tanio (US 5,930,389), and further in view of Sakuragi (US 5,204,959).

Regarding claim 13, Alsop '561 discloses : An apparatus (101, fig. 1) for forming an image (i.e., an input device that is configured to image any writing made on the drawing medium, surface or screen; Page 3, paragraph [0029]), in which hardware

resources (102/103, fig. 1) for use in the forming of the image are provided, and a program runs in respect of the forming of the image (i.e., the user at whiteboard 101 manually, automatically and/or periodically initiates a software process that refreshes the display; Page 2, paragraph [0016]), said apparatus comprising:

an image data converting unit (i.e., whiteboard combines a printing capability by including scanning device with the stand-alone whiteboard; Page 1, paragraph [0004]) configured to convert a format of image data by hardware (i.e., Information displayed on whiteboard 101 is read and processed at specific time intervals by a processor or other input device whose information is sent to server 104; Page 1, paragraph [0015], fig. 1), each of the image data converting unit configured to convert a format of image data by decoding the image data according to parameters that are set (i.e., an image drawn on the whiteboard is captured and converted into an appropriate electronic format. The image may be converted to an image format, such as a bitmap file (BMP), JPEG, GIF, PDF or the like; Page 3, paragraph [0026]), to perform multi- value conversion (i.e., the text could then be stored as an ASCII or other text file format; Page 3, paragraph [0026]) and resizing of the decoded image data to produce processed image data, and to compress the processed image data (i.e., the input device may include an image data compressor. The input device may also include a format converter that is configured to convert image data; Page 3, paragraph [0029]);

a format unifying unit configured to unify a plurality of formats of image data corresponding to respective images by utilizing the image data converting units (i.e., the input device may include a format converter that is configured to convert image data

between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) and to assign the conversion executing unit in one-to-one correspondence to respective images to convert the image data corresponding to respective images in parallel into a unified image format (i.e., Signal 203 provides a bi-directional path for the transmission of displayed data from whiteboard 101 to PC 201 and graphics and text to be displayed from PC 201 to whiteboard 101; Page 2, paragraph [0025], fig. 2).

Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the format unifying unit including a plurality of conversion executing units which correspond to the image data converting units respectively, the format unifying unit configured to set predetermined parameters in the image data converting units.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the format unifying unit including a plurality of conversion executing units (203/209/223/224, fig. 1) which correspond to the image data converting units respectively (i.e., the second CPU 209 can control the scanner and printer which are connected to the outside and can further also perform image processes such as image rotation, image compression; See col. 4, lines 44-47), the format unifying unit configured to set predetermined parameters in the image data converting units (i.e., an initial setting of parameter variables that are used in the control program; Col. 8, lines 51-52).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by

Tanio to include: The format unifying unit including a plurality of conversion executing units which correspond to the image data converting units respectively, the format unifying unit configured to set predetermined parameters in the image data converting units, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

The combination of Alsop '561 and Tanio '389 does not explicitly show each of the image data converting units further configured to resize the image data by increasing or decreasing the linear dimensions of the image.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Sakuragi '959. In particular, Sakuragi '959 teaches each of image data converting units (image information processing apparatus, fig. 1) further configured to resize the image data by increasing or decreasing (i.e., CPU 34 determines a size converting ratio (an enlarge/reduction ratio) R of the image information by enlarge/reduction circuit 46 in step S110; Col. 8, lines 5-10, figs. 1, 7B) the linear dimensions of the image (i.e., the size conversion (expansion or reduction) rate setting data in the X, Y, directions; Col. 4, lines 60-65, figs. 4-5).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Sakuragi, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as

taught by Sakuragi to include: each of image data converting units further configured to resize the image data by increasing or decreasing the linear dimensions of the image, since Sakuragi stated in col. 1, lines 29-32 that such a modification would ensure the retrieved image is enlarged or reduced using an enlarging/reducing ratio in accordance with the size of the outputted image.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Reitmeier (US 6,549,240) discloses format and frame rate conversion for display of 24Hz source video.

Honma et al. (US 7,136,110) discloses image signal processing apparatus.

Iida (US 4,468,755) discloses document size conversion circuit for a document filing system.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KING Y. POON can be reached on (571) 272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Allen H. Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

